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The CIA Again

REFERRING to a published report that years ago the chief U.S. Central Intelligence agent in South Viet Nam had won out over the U. S. ambassador there then in getting U. S. support for Ngô Dinh Diem, Sen. Wayne Morse has called Congress' attention once again to the folly of not informing itself adequately on the CIA.

"... It is difficult to speak on the floor of the Senate on what the CIA policy really was, because senators cannot find out," Mr. Morse declared. "However it is the responsibility of Congress to find out. For several years Congress has refused to return foreign policy to the American people. For several years Congress has refused to pass the necessary legislation that places an effective check upon CIA. Congress has permitted CIA to continue to exercise what appears, in fact, to amount to a police power in a democracy. As a member of the Foreign Relations Committee I cannot tell the Senate—nor can any other member of the committee—what the facts are about the CIA policy in South Viet Nam or anywhere else in the world."

We do not believe detailed activities of the Central Intelligence Agency should normally be discussed on the floor of the Senate at all. But neither do we believe that a secret intelligence-gathering agency should be determining foreign policy any more than it should be conducting military operations. A responsible blue-ribbon committee of Congress, comprised of members especially concerned with various aspects of the nation's foreign operations, should be entrusted with the responsibility of checking on CIA's policies and operations.